

**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A ~~fragment of a protein disclosed in WO99/36544 or a fragment of a protein~~ polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1331, or a polypeptide comprising a contiguous amino acid sequence with at least 50% sequence identity ~~thereto~~ to SEQ ID NO:1331, wherein the ~~fragment~~ polypeptide comprises at least one antigenic determinant and has a length of 100 amino acids or less.

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) An antibody which recognises the ~~fragment~~ polypeptide according to claim 1.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) Nucleic acid encoding the ~~fragment~~ polypeptide of claim 1.

10. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the ~~fragment~~ polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

13. (Original) A method of treating a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 10.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 15.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 17.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) A method of detecting the presence of a meningococcal protein in a biological sample comprising contacting the biological sample with the antibody of claim 7.

24. (Currently amended) A method of detecting the presence of meningococcal antibodies in a biological sample comprising contacting the biological sample with the ~~fragment~~ polypeptide of claim 1.

25. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1331 and further wherein the polypeptide has a length of 100 amino acids or less.

26. (New) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide has a length of 50 amino acids or less.

27. (New) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide has a length of 25 amino acids or less.

28. (New) The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide has a length of 20 amino acids or less.

29. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

30. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

31. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 27 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

32. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

33. (New) A method of treating a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 25.

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 38, line 5, please amend row 1 of TABLE I as follows:

Fragment# (SEQ ID NO)	WO99/36544 ORF	Algorithm	Amino Acids
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